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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Manrique J. Brenes

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CAMPBELL STEPHENSON LLP
11401 CENTURY OAKS TERRACE
BLDG. H, SUITE 250
AUSTIN, TX 78758

EXAMINER

BAKER, STEPHEN M

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2112

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04/15/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/773,705	Applicant(s) BRENES ET AL.	
	Examiner Stephen M. Baker	Art Unit 2112	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 12-21 and 23-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 32 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 12-21 and 23-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-10, 12-21 and 23-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 1, 12, 23 and 30, “estimating a ... link error rate ... using ... a hysteresis factor” is apparently incorrect, as a “hysteresis” is apparently only involved in determining an alarm state, not an error rate, as noted previously.

Claim 1 apparently should be amended as suggested below:

1. A method comprising:
determining an operational link error rate of a link; ~~and~~
estimating a real-time physical link error rate of said link using said operational link error rate; ~~and~~
applying a hysteresis factor, wherein
said hysteresis factor is a ratio of a physical link alarm set threshold to a physical link alarm clear threshold.

Claims 12, 23 and 30 apparently require similar changes.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, 12-14, 17-19, 21, 23-26 and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,459,731 to Brief *et al* (hereafter “Brief”).

Brief discloses arrangements for link error rate (LER) monitoring in an FDDI network and for setting and clearing an alarm responsive to changes in estimated LER. Brief’s link error monitor (234) estimates LER by computing a time interval “T” in a formula (1) for LER as a weighted average time interval “AveInt” between link errors (column 3, lines 57+), where the link errors detected are line code violations (column 4, lines 22+). Brief’s measured interval “ i_n ” between each detected error serves as an “operational link error rate of a link” in the form of quantified seconds per error. Brief’s LER estimate is used as a “real-time physical link error rate” in being applied to the ANSI FDDI PMD standard for maximum tolerable LER (column 3, lines 52-56). Accordingly Brief discloses a method comprising “determining an operational link error of a link” and “estimating a real-time physical link error rate of said link using said operational link error rate.” Furthermore, Brief discloses “hysteresis” in the form of different LER thresholds for alarm setting and clearing, and Brief’s different LER

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thresholds for alarm setting and clearing inherently possess a “hysteresis factor” defined as “a ratio of a physical link alarm set threshold to a physical link alarm clear threshold.”

Regarding claims 3, 14 and 26, Brief’s error rate monitoring is performed on data transmitted between “elements” of a network and apparently operates “at least partially concurrently” with the data reception, as data reception is apparently not interrupted for such monitoring.

Regarding claims 7 and 18, FDDI data is understood to be comprise a “plurality of data sets” within which the errors are detected.

Regarding claims 8, 10, 19, 21, 23, 24 and 29, in addition to generating an alarm responsive to an “alarm set threshold”, i.e. generating “an alarm signal in response to a comparison of said real-time physical link error rate and a physical link error alarm set threshold,” Brief also discloses a pass threshold that serves as an “alarm clear threshold” (column 5, lines 8-56). Brief’s configuration registers (Table 1) supports a “configuration subsystem to receive data specifying said physical link error alarm set threshold.”

Regarding claims 12-14, 17-19 and 21, software code for supporting the functions described above is provided in Brief’s appendix.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-10, 12-21 and 23-31 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
6. Claim 32 is allowed.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 11 January 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

It is not apparent how the following portion of the specification [0042] supports the notion that any sort of link error rate is estimated using (i.e. by means of) alarm thresholds:

“Following the determination of the physical link error alarm clear threshold, physical link error alarm set threshold, and evaluation time period the real-time physical link error rate may be estimated by treating detected operational link errors., as physical link errors.”

The arguments otherwise appear to rely on matter implied with ambiguities in the independent claims, and these ambiguities are addressed with suggested corrections in the rejection under 35 USC 112 contained in this action.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. Baker whose telephone number is (571) 272-3814. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (11:00 AM - 7:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jacques H. Louis-Jacques can be reached on (571) 272-6962. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Stephen M. Baker
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2112

smb

/Stephen M. Baker/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2112